

She received numerous awards for her work, most notably the Shining Example Award from Proctor & Gamble in 1998, an American Image Award from the AAFA in 2003, and the American Cancer Society named her Mother of the Year in 2005.

Dana, the person, was a tireless advocate for people with spinal cord injuries. For me personally, she and Chris will forever be the shining lights in the great national debate for advancing medical research.

It is with sadness that I stand before this body, more than 9 months after the historic vote in the House to expand Federally funded embryonic stem cell research, and still there has been no vote in the Senate.

With each day that passes the research that could one day lead to cures and treatments for millions of Americans with deadly and debilitating diseases is being held up.

It is incomprehensible to me that we have a bill, which has already passed the House, that may help millions of Americans but instead is just sitting, languishing in the Senate despite some overtures or promises that it would be taken up by this body.

It is time for the Senate to do exactly what the House did. It is time for the Senate to take up and pass the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act, the Castle-DeGette bill, with no amendments and no alternatives. I believe we have the votes to pass this bill today and send it to the President.

I want to take a moment to acknowledge Dana's last struggle, her battle against cancer. This terrible disease is a very personal one for me. I have lost many loved ones to it. The elimination of death and suffering due to cancer has been one of my highest priorities since coming to the Senate.

Dana died of lung cancer and, as many of you have read in the papers, Dana was a non-smoker. I believe she had stage one metastatic lung cancer. In fact, over 60 percent of new lung cancers are diagnosed in people who never smoked or who managed to quit smoking even decades ago.

While cigarette smoking is by far the most important risk factor for lung cancer, many other factors play a role.

Lung cancer remains the deadliest form of cancer. In 2006, it will account for more than 162,000 cancer deaths, or about 29 percent of all cancer deaths. Since 1987, more women have died each year of lung cancer than from breast cancer.

Screening for lung cancer is years behind screening for other cancers, which means that when it is diagnosed, the disease is often already in its late stages, which is what I suspect happened to Dana Reeve.

The 5-year survival rate for all stages of lung cancer is only 15 percent. Compare this to the overall 5-year survival rate of 65 percent for all cancers diagnosed between 1995 and 2001.

Clearly we can and must do better. Increased NIH research for lung cancer is essential and we must press for better screening tools for lung cancer. I plan to address both of these issues in

comprehensive cancer legislation I plan to introduce shortly.

In closing, it is my sincere hope that the love Dana and Chris shared for each other will reunite them wherever their journeys take them from here. Dana left us far too soon—in her mid-40s—but she left us with her fighting spirit and the will to push forward so that one day we may find treatments and cures for those living with spinal cord injuries and other disabling conditions.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator withdraw his suggestion of an absence of a quorum?

Mr. HARKIN. Yes. I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. In my capacity as a Senator from the State of North Carolina, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess until 2:15 p.m. to accommodate the weekly party lunches and that the time will be counted postcloture.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:24 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. ISAKSON).

MAKING AVAILABLE FUNDS FOR THE LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, 2006—Continued

Mr. MARTINEZ. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DAYTON. I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for 10 minutes with the time charged against my hour under cloture.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

KIRBY PUCKETT

Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I rise today to note with sorrow the passing of one of Minnesota's greatest sports heroes, Kirby Puckett, who suffered a stroke on Sunday and died yesterday at the age of 45. Kirby Puckett was born and raised in Chicago, but he became a Minnesotan when he was drafted at the age of 22 by the Minnesota Twins.

After two seasons in the minor leagues, he played his first major league game for the Twins on May 8, 1984, where he became the ninth player in baseball history to get four hits in his first game. Three years later, he appeared in the first of eight consecutive All Star games during which time he also won the American League's Most Valuable Player honors and Most Valuable Player in the American League championship series.

When his great career was cut short by blurred vision caused by glaucoma

in 1996, he sported a lifetime major league batting average of .318 with 2,304 hits, 207 home runs, and 1,085 runs batted in in 1,783 games. But even those extraordinary statistics comprise only part of Kirby Puckett's greatness. He played baseball with an enthusiasm, a devotion, and an excitement that was thrilling to watch. Whether at bat or in center field, where he was a Golden Glove outfielder, he brought Twins fans out of their seats with spectacular game-winning plays.

No Minnesota Twins fan old enough to remember our team's two world championships will ever forget Kirby Puckett. In 1987, with the Twins trailing the St. Louis Cardinals three games to two, Kirby tied World Series records by reaching base five times and scoring four runs to lead the Twins to victory in game No. 6. The next night the Twins won game 7 to win their first world championship and a Minnesota team's first professional world championship in almost 30 years.

Four years later in another World Series game 6 with the Twins, this time playing the Atlanta Braves three games to two, Kirby Puckett was unbelievably even more spectacular than before. His over-the-wall catch saved the game-winning Braves home run and sent the game into extra innings which he then won with a home run in the bottom of the 11th inning. The next night the Twins won another game 7 and another World Series.

During those years, Kirby Puckett was a wonderful representative of the Minnesota Twins and Major League Baseball. He hosted celebrity events for local charities, made countless appearances for others, signed endless autographs, all with his infectious Kirby Puckett smile. Andy MacPhail, now president of the Chicago Cubs, and general manager of the Twins during those World Series years, said yesterday:

Kirby Puckett was probably the greatest teammate I've ever been around. You always felt better when you were around Kirby. He just had that way about him.

The years following his retirement from baseball stardom were more difficult ones with his sterling reputation tarnished by marital discord and other public incidents. When his contract as executive vice president for the Twins expired at the end of 2002, Kirby Puckett retired from baseball and later moved to Scottsdale, AZ where he passed away. He is survived by his two children Catherine and Kirby, Jr. and his fiancée Jodi Olson, to whom I extend my deepest condolences.

The Kirby Puckett I will remember, as will a generation of Minnesota Twins fans young and old, will always be wearing a Minnesota Twins uniform, No. 34, leaping for flyballs, racing around the bases, making his greatest plays in the most important games, and doing so with a zest for the game and for life that was unmistakable and unforgettable.